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10/065,264	09/30/2002	Masahide Tanaka	106121.03	5673

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EXAMINER

HERNANDEZ, NELSON D

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2622

DATE MAILED: 06/15/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/065,264

Applicant(s)

TANAKA ET AL.

Examiner

Nelson D. Hernandez

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 March 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 30 March 2006 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>1/31/2006</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. The Examiner acknowledges the amended claims filed on March 30, 2006.
Claim 8 has been amended.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments, see pages 7-8, filed on March 30, 2006, with respect to the rejection(s) of claim(s) 1, 2, 4-7 and 9-13 under 35 USC § 103 have been fully considered and are persuasive. Therefore, the rejection has been withdrawn. However, upon further consideration, a new ground(s) of rejection is made in view of newly found prior art.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. **Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Chatani, JP 08-69684.**

Regarding claim 8, Chatani discloses a storage medium (Fig. 1) that stores a computer program that is executable by a controller (control circuit in fig. 2: 23) of a

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digital image storage for use with a digital camera (Fig. 1: 10) having a memory, digital images in the memory being transmitted from the memory to the digital image storage by way of a docking station (Fig. 1: 6) capable of being coupled with the digital camera, the computer program comprising instructions to cause the controller to perform the steps of: detecting receipt of a signal from the docking station (See translation, page 6, ¶ 0019, ¶ 0023 – page 7, ¶0029); causing the transmission of the digital images from the digital camera to the digital image storage subsequent to the detection of the receipt of the signal (See translation, page 6, ¶ 0019, ¶ 0023 – page 7, ¶0029); and storing the transmitted digital images in a memory (magnetic-disk, see fig. 1: 2)) of the digital image storage (See translation, page 6, ¶ 0019, ¶ 0023 – page 7, ¶0029).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. **Claims 1-7 and 9-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Berstis, US Patent 6,721,001 B1 in view of Chatani, JP 8-69684**

A.

Regarding claim 1, Berstis discloses a digital image storage system (See fig. 1) for use with a digital camera (Fig. 1: 102) having a memory (Fig. 2: 214), the digital image storage system comprising: a docking station (Fig. 1: 106) on which the digital

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camera is to be placed for taking out digital images stored in the memory of the digital camera; and a digital image storage (Personal computer; col. 2, lines 15-46) located apart from the docking station for communicating with the docking station, wherein the digital camera includes a controller (Fig. 2: 208) that detects a signal from the docking station and causes transmission of the digital images subsequent to receipt of the signal; Berstis inherently teaches that the digital image storage includes a storage medium that stores the taken out digital images (A storage medium is inherent in a personal computer to store data) (Col. 2, line 15 – col. 3, line 8; col. 4, lines 5-63).

Berstis discloses that detecting the connection between the camera and the personal computer is made by the digital camera but does not explicitly disclose that the digital image storage includes a controller that detects a signal from the docking station and causes the taking out of the digital images subsequent to receipt of the signal.

However, Chatani discloses a digital image storage (Fig. 1) system comprising: a data storage (Fig. 1: 1) including a docking station (see fig. 1: 6) on which a digital camera (Fig. 1: 10) can be placed for transmitting images stored in a memory (Fig. 1: 8) of the digital camera to the docking station and for receiving electric power from the docking station to charge a battery of the digital camera, the data storage further including a storage medium (Fig. 1: 2) that stores the transmitted digital images; and a controller (control circuit in fig. 2: 23) that controls the transmission of the digital images (Fig. 3, step S102) from the digital camera, wherein when said controller detects a signal from the interface (Fig. 2: 26) of the docking station indicating that the camera is connected, the controller start transmission of images from the camera to a memory

(magnetic-disk, see fig. 1: 2) (See translation, page 6, ¶ 0019, ¶ 0023 – page 7, ¶0029).

Having the image storage including a controller that detects a signal from the docking station and causes the taking out of the digital images subsequent to receipt of the signal is advantageous because it would reduce the power consumption of the digital camera and also it would reduce the size of the digital cameras since it would require fewer components for performing image transmission.

Therefore, taking the combined teaching of Berstis in view of Chatani as a whole, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Berstis by having the digital image storage detecting when the digital camera is connected to said digital image storage. The motivation to do so would have been to reduce the power consumption of the digital camera and also it would reduce the size of the digital cameras since it would require fewer components for performing image transmission.

Regarding claim 2, the combined teaching of Berstis in view of Chatani as applied to claim 1 teaches that the controller causes the taking out of all the digital images in the memory subsequent to receipt of the signal (See Berstis, col. 4, lines 53-63).

Regarding claim 4, Berstis discloses that the docking station is designed to charge a battery of the digital camera when the digital camera is coupled with the docking station (Col. 3, lines 9-17).

Regarding claim 5, Berstis discloses that the signal is caused by the placing of the digital camera on the docking station (Col. 3, lines 17-46; col. 4, line 50 – col. 5, line 14; col. 6, line 63 – col. 7, line 60).

Regarding claim 6, Berstis discloses a digital image storage (Personal computer; col. 2, lines 15-46) for use with a digital camera (Fig. 1: 102) having a memory (Fig. 2: 214), digital images in the memory being transmitted from the memory to the digital image storage by way of a docking station (Fig. 1: 106) capable of being coupled with the digital camera, the digital camera comprising: a controller (Fig. 2: 208) that detects a signal from the docking station and that causes the transmission of the digital images from the digital camera to the digital image storage subsequent to the detection of the signal; the digital image storage comprises a memory (a memory is inherent in a personal computer to store data; i.e. hard disk) that stores the transmitted digital images (Col. 2, line 15 – col. 3, line 8; col. 4, lines 5-63).

Berstis discloses that detecting the connection between the camera and the personal computer is made by the digital camera but does not explicitly disclose that the digital image storage comprises a controller that detects a signal from the docking station and that causes the transmission of the digital images from the digital camera to the digital image storage subsequent to the detection of the signal.

However, Chatani discloses a digital image storage (Fig. 1) system comprising: a data storage (Fig. 1: 1) including a docking station (see fig. 1: 6) on which a digital camera (Fig. 1: 10) can be placed for transmitting images stored in a memory (Fig. 1: 8) of the digital camera to the docking station and for receiving electric power from the

docking station to charge a battery of the digital camera, the data storage further including a storage medium (Fig. 1: 2) that stores the transmitted digital images; and a controller (control circuit in fig. 2: 23) that controls the transmission of the digital images (Fig. 3, step S102) from the digital camera, wherein when said controller detects a signal from the interface (Fig. 2: 26) of the docking station indicating that the camera is connected, the controller start transmission of images from the camera to a memory (magnetic-disk, see fig. 1: 2) (See translation, page 6, ¶ 0019, ¶ 0023 – page 7, ¶0029). Having the image storage including a controller that detects a signal from the docking station and causes the taking out of the digital images subsequent to receipt of the signal is advantageous because it would reduce the power consumption of the digital camera and also it would reduce the size of the digital cameras since it would require fewer components for performing image transmission.

Therefore, taking the combined teaching of Berstis in view of Chatani as a whole, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Berstis by having the digital image storage detecting when the digital camera is connected to said digital image storage. The motivation to do so would have been to reduce the power consumption of the digital camera and also it would reduce the size of the digital cameras since it would require fewer components for performing image transmission.

Regarding claim 7, the combined teaching of Berstis in view of Chatani as applied to claim 6 teaches that the controller causes the taking-out of all the digital

images in the memory of the digital camera subsequent to receipt of the signal (See Berstis, col. 4, lines 53-63).

Regarding claim 9, Berstis discloses a digital image storage (Fig. 1) system for use with a digital camera (Fig. 1: 102) having a memory (Fig. 2: 214), the digital image storage system comprising: a docking station (Fig. 1: 106) on which the digital camera is to be placed for taking out digital images stored in the memory of the digital camera; and a digital image storage (Personal computer; col. 2, lines 15-46) located apart from the docking station for communicating with the docking station, wherein the digital camera includes a controller (Fig. 2: 208) that detects a signal from the docking station and that executes a program for taking out the digital images from the memory of the digital camera, and the digital image storage comprises a storage medium (a storage medium is inherent in a personal computer to store data; i.e. hard disk) that stores the taken out digital images, the program being automatically started subsequent to detection of the signal (Col. 2, line 15 – col. 3, line 8; col. 4, lines 5-63).

Berstis discloses that detecting the connection between the camera and the personal computer is made by an controller in the digital camera but does not explicitly disclose that the digital image storage comprises a controller that detects a signal from the docking station and that causes the transmission of the digital images from the digital camera to the digital image storage subsequent to the detection of the signal.

However, Chatani discloses a digital image storage (Fig. 1) system comprising: a data storage (Fig. 1: 1) including a docking station (see fig. 1: 6) on which a digital camera (Fig. 1: 10) can be placed for transmitting images stored in a memory (Fig. 1: 8)

of the digital camera to the docking station and for receiving electric power from the docking station to charge a battery of the digital camera, the data storage further including a storage medium (Fig. 1: 2) that stores the transmitted digital images; and a controller (control circuit in fig. 2: 23) that controls the transmission of the digital images (Fig. 3, step S102) from the digital camera, wherein when said controller detects a signal from the interface (Fig. 2: 26) of the docking station indicating that the camera is connected, the controller start transmission of images from the camera to a memory (magnetic-disk, see fig. 1: 2) (See translation, page 6, ¶ 0019, ¶ 0023 – page 7, ¶0029). Having the image storage including a controller that detects a signal from the docking station and causes the taking out of the digital images subsequent to receipt of the signal is advantageous because it would reduce the power consumption of the digital camera and also it would reduce the size of the digital cameras since it would require fewer components for performing image transmission.

Therefore, taking the combined teaching of Berstis in view of Chatani as a whole, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Berstis by having the digital image storage detecting when the digital camera is connected to said digital image storage. The motivation to do so would have been to reduce the power consumption of the digital camera and also it would reduce the size of the digital cameras since it would require fewer components for performing image transmission.

Regarding claim 10, Berstis discloses a digital image storage system (Fig. 1) for use with a digital camera (Fig. 1: 102) having a memory (Fig. 2: 214), the digital image

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storage system comprising: a docking station (Fig. 1: 106) on which the digital camera is to be placed for taking out digital images stored in the memory of the digital camera; and a digital image storage (Personal computer; col. 2, lines 15-46) located apart from the docking station for communicating with the docking station, wherein the digital camera includes a controller (Fig. 2: 208) that detects change of status of the docking station (detects connection between camera and docking station) and that causes the taking out of the digital images subsequent to the detection of the change in status, and the digital image storage comprises a storage medium (a storage medium is inherent in a personal computer to store data; i.e. hard disk) that stores the taken out digital images.

Berstis discloses that detecting the connection between the camera and the personal computer is made by an controller in the digital camera but does not explicitly disclose that the digital image storage comprises a controller that detects a signal from the docking station and that causes the transmission of the digital images from the digital camera to the digital image storage subsequent to the detection of the signal.

However, Chatani discloses a digital image storage (Fig. 1) system comprising: a data storage (Fig. 1: 1) including a docking station (see fig. 1: 6) on which a digital camera (Fig. 1: 10) can be placed for transmitting images stored in a memory (Fig. 1: 8) of the digital camera to the docking station and for receiving electric power from the docking station to charge a battery of the digital camera, the data storage further including a storage medium (Fig. 1: 2) that stores the transmitted digital images; and a controller (control circuit in fig. 2: 23) that controls the transmission of the digital images

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(Fig. 3, step S102) from the digital camera, wherein when said controller detects a signal from the interface (Fig. 2: 26) of the docking station indicating that the camera is connected, the controller start transmission of images from the camera to a memory (magnetic-disk, see fig. 1: 2) (See translation, page 6, ¶ 0019, ¶ 0023 – page 7, ¶0029). Having the image storage including a controller that detects a signal from the docking station and causes the taking out of the digital images subsequent to receipt of the signal is advantageous because it would reduce the power consumption of the digital camera and also it would reduce the size of the digital cameras since it would require fewer components for performing image transmission.

Therefore, taking the combined teaching of Berstis in view of Chatani as a whole, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Berstis by having the digital image storage detecting when the digital camera is connected to said digital image storage. The motivation to do so would have been to reduce the power consumption of the digital camera and also it would reduce the size of the digital cameras since it would require fewer components for performing image transmission.

Regarding claims 11-13, Berstis discloses that the docking station has a shape to fit a bottom of the digital camera (See fig. 1; col. 2, lines 15-39).

7. Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Berstis, US Patent 6,721,001 B1 in view of Chatani, JP 08-69684 A and further in view of Davison, US Patent 6,516,099 B1.

Regarding claim 3, the combined teaching of Berstis in view of Chatani fails to teach that the controller causes the taking out of the digital images in order of the time when respective digital images were taken by the digital camera.

However, transferring images from a digital camera to an external device in the same order that said images were captured is notoriously well known in the art as taught by Davison wherein a camera (Fig. 1: 12) takes a plurality of images and a computer (Fig. 1: 12) downloads said images in the same order said images were taken in order to display the images in a display (Fig. 1: 18) in the same order the images were taken (Col. 7, lines 34-60). Taking out of the digital images in order of the time when respective digital images were taken by the digital camera is advantageous because it would help to organize a group of images taken at different points of view of an object to be composed into a single image; it would also help an user organizing the images when having a large amount of images stored in the digital camera or the digital image storage and to properly.

Therefore, taking the combined teaching of Berstis in view of Chatani and further in view of Davison as a whole, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the digital image storage system of Berstis and Chatani by taking out of the digital images in order of the time when respective digital images were taken by the digital camera. The motivation to do so would have been to help to organize a group of images taken at different points of view of an object to be composed into a single image as suggested by Davison (Col. 2, lines

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1-37); also would help an user organizing the images when having a large amount of images stored in the digital camera or the digital image storage and to properly.

Conclusion

8. Because new grounds for rejections have been introduced to unamended claims 1-7 and 9-13, this Office Action will be Non-Final

Contact

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Nelson D. Hernandez whose telephone number is (571) 272-7311. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 A.M. to 6:00 P.M..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Ometz can be reached on (571) 272-7593. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Nelson D. Hernandez
Examiner
Art Unit 2622

NDHH
June 10, 2006



TUAN HO
PRIMARY EXAMINER